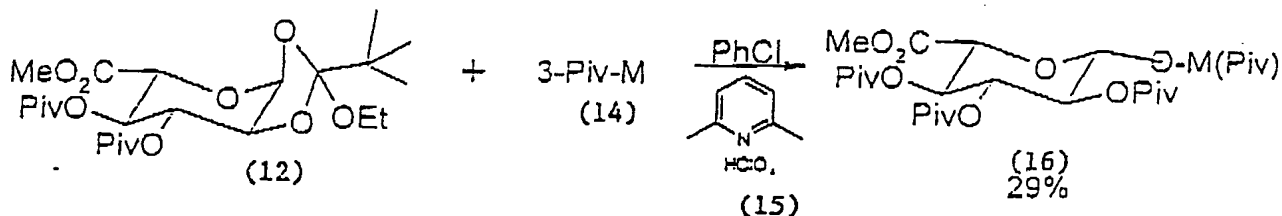


19

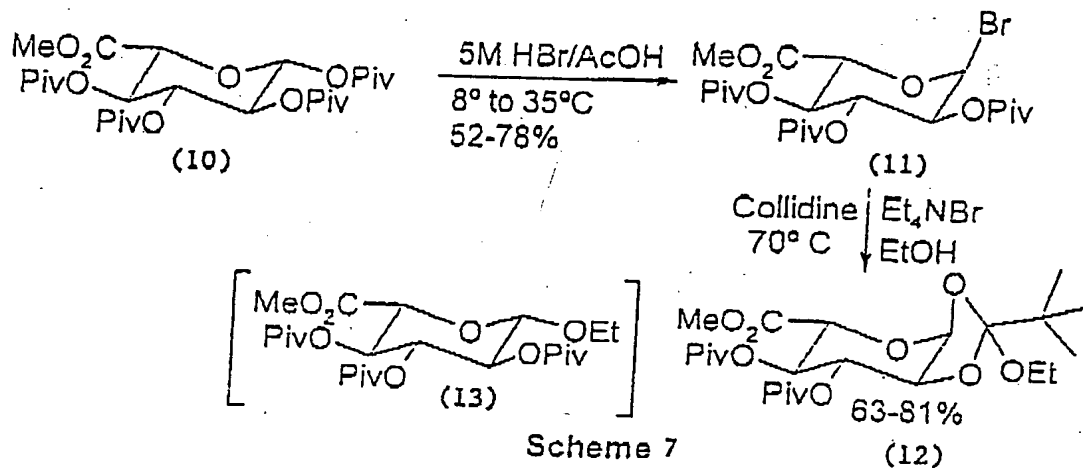
Claims

1. A method for the preferential synthesis of the  $\beta$ -anomer of M6G which includes the step shown in Scheme 10:



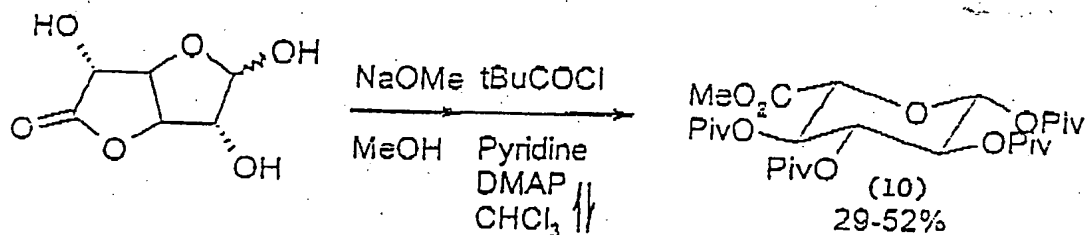
Scheme 10

2. Synthesis according to claim 1 which includes the step shown in Scheme 7:



Scheme 7

- a 3. Synthesis according to <sup>claim 2</sup> ~~claim 1 or 2~~ which includes the step shown in Scheme 6:

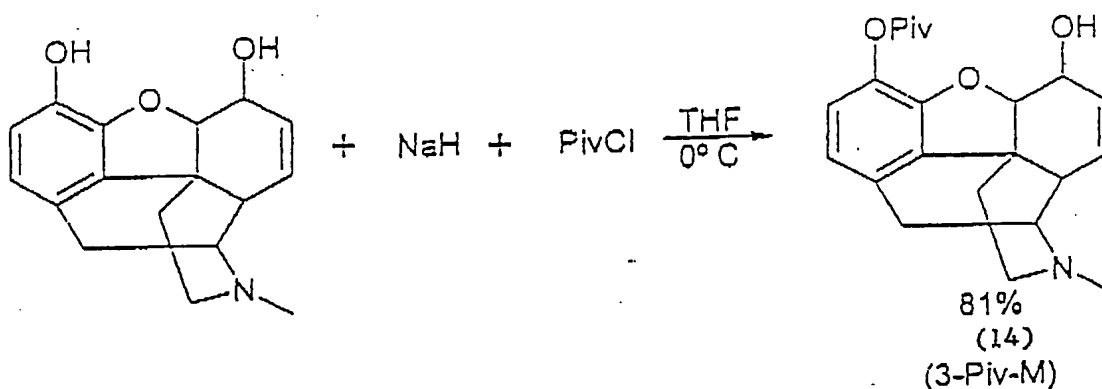


Scheme 6

wherein use of DMAP is optional.

a 4.

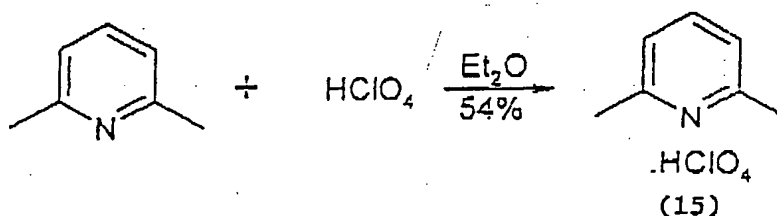
20  
claim 1  
Synthesis according to ~~any preceding claim~~ which includes the step shown in scheme 8:



Scheme 8

a 5.

claim 1  
Synthesis according to ~~any preceding claim~~ which includes the step shown in Scheme 9:



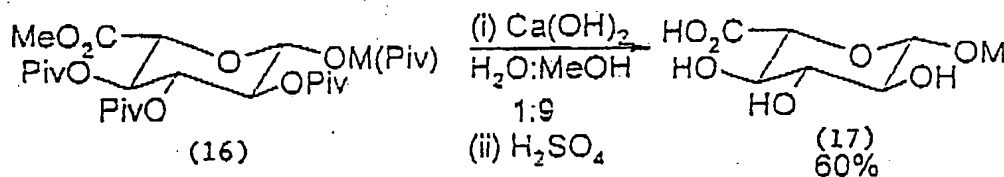
Scheme 9

6.

claim 1  
Synthesis according to ~~any preceding claim~~ which includes a step to hydrolyse the protecting groups from compound 16.

7.

Synthesis according to claim 6 in which the hydrolysis is as shown in Scheme 11:



Scheme 11

8. A compound of formula (12) as defined in claim 2 or a derivative thereof for use in a method according to claim 1.
9. Use of a compound of formula (10) as defined in claim 1 or a derivative thereof in a method according to claim 2.
10. Use of a compound of formula (11) as defined in claim 2 or a derivative thereof in a method according to claim 2.
11. Use of a compound of formula (14) as defined in claim 3 or a derivative thereof in a method according to claim 1.
12. Use of a compound of formula (15) as defined in claim 4 or a derivative thereof in a method according to claim 1.
13. Use of a compound of formula (16) as defined in claim 5 or a derivative thereof in a method according to claim 7.